

The present invention provides an image-pickup apparatus such as a digital still camera. Herein, prior to actual photographing, pre-photographing is performed with a shutter speed set to a plurality of different values. A signal synthesizing circuit synthesizes the resultant image values to acquire information concerning a dynamic range required to photograph a photographic scene. A signal distribution arithmetic circuit produces a histogram using the acquired information. A signal distribution analyzing circuit analyzes the peak frequencies of the histogram. A shutter timing calculating circuit produces shutter timing signals optimal for actual photographing according to the result of the analysis. An image-pickup device or the like is driven in response to each of the produced shutter timing signals, whereby actual photographing is achieved.